

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT M 01087 170051Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ICA-11 OES-09 IO-13 L-03 INT-05

MMO-01 /055 W

-----054641 170103Z /73

R 140750Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3478

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT MORESBY 1087

PASS STATUS LNO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, BP, PP

SUBJECT: USG RESIDENT REPRESENTATION AT HONIARA

1. AS DEPT IS AWARE, PRIME MINISTER KENILOREA OF SOLOMON ISLANDS EXPRESSED HOPES THAT US INFORMATION OFFICE WOULD BE OPENED IN HONIARA DURING TALKS WITH US DEL TO INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIES. I STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE, BUT TERMS OF MY RECOMMENDATION WILL HAVE TO AWAIT ON-SITE SURVEY OF OFFICE SPACE, PERSONNEL, COSTS, ETC. SEEMS LIKELY QUICKEST WAY TO START UP WOULD BE TO HIRE LOCAL EMPLOYEE TO RUN IT.

2. HONIARA WILL TAKE ON NEW IMPORTANCE WHEN SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES ORGANIZATION IS ESTABLISHED THERE, PROBABLY IN 1979. RAPIDLY GROWING INTEREST IN SOUTH PACIFIC ON PART OF US TUNA FLEET LEADS ME TO BELIEVE THAT WE WILL NEED CONSIDERABLY GREATER FISHERIES EXPERTISE THAN IS NOW AVAILABLE IN SOUTH PACIFIC. HENCE I BELIEVE

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THAT WE SHOULD HAVE A SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE' AND I BELIEVE HE SHOULD BE RESIDENT IN HONIARA. HE WOULD SERVE AS THE PRINCIPAL LINK BETWEEN SPRFO AND THE USG AND ALSO HE SHOULD TRAVEL REGULARLY THROUGH THE REGION, VISITING BOTH COUNTRIES WHERE WE HAVE POSTS AND COUNTRIES WHERE WE DO NOT.

3. WE NOW HAVE ABOUT 30 PCV'S IN THE SOLOMONS AND TWO CO-DIRECTORS OF PEACE CORPS. IF WE ADD A US INFORMATION OFFICE AND REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE', BELIEVE WE WILL WANT TO APPOINT CHARGE' AND ONE SUPPORT EMPLOYEE. CHARGE' WOULD OVERSEE INFORMATION OFFICE, DO POL/ECON WORK, AND HANDLE CONSULATER MATTERS. WE MIGHT WANT TO ALTERNATE BETWEEN FSO AND FSIO AS CHARGE'. SUPPORT PERSON WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR COMMUNICATIONS, CLERICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE WORK.

4. I SEE ESTABLISHMENT OF EMBASSY HONIARA AS GRADUAL BUILD UP, WITH CHARGE' POSSIBLY NOT APPOINTED UNTIL 1980 OR 81, BUT BELIEVE WE SHOULD START WORKING ON MATTER NOW.

5. HOPE OTHER ADDRESSEES WILL SUPPORT IDEA OF SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE' RESIDENT IN HONIARA.
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